GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3288
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2002
PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ARWSP
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation from various State Governments regarding development of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Projects in their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL)

(a) to (c) Drinking water supply being a State subject, schemes for providing drinking water facilities are implemented by the States from their own resources. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing financial assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The powers to plan, sanction and implement Rural Water Supply schemes under the above programmes rests with the State Governments.

In October 2001, a State Minister`s Conference was held where improvements of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme were suggested. In pursuance to the recommendations of the State Ministers` Conference, following changes in the Guidelines for Rural Water Supply have been made:

(i) Weightage for Not Covered and Partially Covered villages and Quality affected villages in the criteria for inter-state allocation of funds under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme has been increased from 10% and 5% to 15% and 10% respectively.

(ii) The norms may be relaxed to provide for 55 ltrs per capita per day with a source within 0.5 km in the plains and 50 metres elevation in the hills after the coverage of all Not Covered and Partially Covered rural habitations in that State is achieved, as per the existing norms of 40 litres per capita per day. This relaxation is subject to the condition that beneficiaries of the relaxed norms will share a part of the capital cost (which should not be less than 10%) and shoulder full responsibilities for subsequent Operation and Maintenance.

(iii) 5% of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme funds have been earmarked for natural calamities and emergent situations. Funds out of this remaining un- utilised in February will be pooled back to normal Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme fund and allocated to better performing States.